



ENERGY
GAS AND OIL
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINERAL RESOURCES
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

Ninth Street Office Building / 8th Floor
202 North Ninth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3402
(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237
www.dmme.virginia.gov

For Immediate Release

January 17, 2007

Mike Abbott: Mines, Minerals and Energy

(276) 523-8146

Cell: (276) 356-3405

DMME Announces Funding to Provide Public Water to 34 Homes in Dickenson County

Water Project Funded by Abandoned Mine Land Program

Richmond, VA – The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy announced today that Dickenson County will receive \$553,810 in Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding for a public water project. Public water will be extended to 34 homes in the Tom Bottom community in northern Dickenson County along State Routes 611 and 776 approximately ¾ mile north of Haysi, Virginia. Water supplies in this community were impacted by pre-1981 coal surface mining activities and are eligible for funding by Virginia's AML Program.

Governor Timothy M. Kaine noted that the funding through Virginia's AML Program will provide yet another coalfield community with clean drinking water. "The Dickenson County project will further the Commonwealth's efforts to enhance the availability of public water in the coalfield area and continue my administration's efforts to provide public water supplies to communities in need throughout the Commonwealth," said Governor Kaine. "Furthermore, we can now anticipate continued funding of coalfield water projects with the reauthorization December 20, 2006, through 2021, of the Federal Abandoned Mine Land Program." In November, Governor Kaine announced Virginia Community Development Block Grants (VCDBG) that provided, in part, \$339,645 in funds for Buchanan County from the VCDBG Construction Ready Fund to construct a public water system serving 140 individuals in the Roseann-Hurley community.

"The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, which administers Virginia's AML Program, has committed to using the full 30% of annual grant funding allowed for public water projects," said Commerce and Trade Secretary Patrick O. Gottschalk. "Over \$19 million in AML funding has

helped provide water to 7,138 coalfield households since 1984. In addition, local planning district commissions and counties have provided supplemental funding for these water projects.”

The Tom Bottom water project has been selected for construction funding under Virginia’s FY07 AML Grant to be approved April 1, 2007. The remaining project funding will come from the Dickenson County Public Service Authority. Total construction funding for this project is \$584,510. Virginia AML funds originate from reclamation taxes paid by the state's coal industry.

#